

CLAIMS

1. A beverage making apparatus including a fluid compartment, a beverage compartment, beverage processing means, heating means and user controllable heating power control means, said fluid compartment and said
5 beverage compartment being communicable via said beverage processing means, said heating means being adapted for heating fluid inside said fluid compartment so that, when in use, steam generated in said fluid compartment will force fluid to move from said fluid compartment to said beverage compartment via said beverage processing means, characterised in that, the flavour of beverages made by said apparatus being controllable
10 by varying the rate of steam production in said fluid compartment through varying the heating power output of said heating means via said user controllable heating power control means on said apparatus.
2. A beverage making apparatus according to claim 1 and including a base on
15 which said fluid compartment is supported, said electrical heating means being a variable power output electrical heating means, wherein the rate of steam production in said fluid compartment being controllable by varying the power output of said heating means.
3. A beverage making apparatus according to claim 2, wherein, when in use,
20 said fluid compartment being heated by said heating means in said supporting base to generate steam for moving fluid from said fluid compartment to said beverage compartment.

4. A beverage making apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said beverage making apparatus including a control panel supported on said base, said control panel including a power output controlling and indicating means.
5. An apparatus of claim 1, wherein said heating means including electrical heating elements disposed underneath said fluid compartment, the heating power output and the consequential rate of steam generation being variable by said control means, said control means and said heating means being disposed on a housing which is detachably connectable with either said fluid compartment or said beverage compartment.
- 10 6. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said beverage compartment being detachably connectible to said fluid compartment so that, when in use, said beverage processing means being sandwiched between said fluid compartment and said beverage compartment.
- 15 7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the junctions between said beverage processing means and said fluid compartment being substantially air-tight.
8. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said beverage processing means including an overflow means through which fluid from said fluid compartment enters said beverage compartment through.
- 20 9. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said overflow means including a fluid discharge outlet which is elevated above the bottom portion of said beverage compartment.

10. An apparatus according to claim 1 and including a container having a top portion, a bottom portion, and a peripheral wall interconnecting said top and bottom portions, said beverage processing means being a modular sub-assembly which is slidably movable along said peripheral wall, said 5 beverage processing means including sealing means for partitioning said container into said fluid compartment and said beverage compartment, said beverage compartment being proximal to said top portion of said container.
11. An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said apparatus further including means for restricting movements of said beverage processing 10 means within said container.
12. An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said modular beverage processing means including a hollow compartment intermediate of said top and bottom portions of said container for receiving beverage making substances, said modular beverage processing means further including 15 partitioning means for separating said container into said fluid compartment and said beverage compartment, said partitioning means including a fluid blocking member extending between said hollow compartment and said peripheral wall of said container, said beverage compartment being defined between said fluid blocking member and said top portion of said container, 20 said fluid compartment being defined between said blocking member and said bottom portion of said container.
13. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a sealing member is disposed between the outer end of said blocking member and the inside of said peripheral wall of said container.

14. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said sealing member including an O-ring.
15. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said beverage processing means being restrained within said container by a lid which covers the top portion of said container.
5
16. An apparatus for making beverages including:-
 - a main container including a top portion, a bottom portion and a peripheral wall interconnecting said top and bottom portions;
 - a beverage processing module including a receptacle for receiving beverage making substances, partitioning means separating said main container into a fluid compartment and a beverage compartment, a first fluid guiding means for guiding fluid to move from said first fluid movement to said receptacle, a second fluid guiding means for guiding fluid to move from said receptacle to said beverage compartment, said fluid compartment being defined between said partitioning means and said bottom portion of said main container, said beverage compartment being defined between said partitioning means and said top portion of said main container, said fluid compartment and said beverage compartment being generally not communicable except through said receptacle, and said partitioning means being slidably movable inside said main container and along said peripheral wall, and
10
 - Electrical heating means for heating said fluid compartment.
15
20

17. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said first fluid guiding means including a tubular member extending from said receptacle towards said bottom portion of said main container, said tubular member including at least a fluid inlet aperture, said second fluid guiding means including a tubular member extending from said receptacle towards said top portion of said main container, said tubular member including a fluid outlet aperture disposed at level elevated above said receptacle.
5
18. An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said receptacle including means for retaining said beverage making substances within said receptacle.
10
19. An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said means for retaining said beverage making substances including means for blocking solid granules such as a grille, a screen, a filter, a mesh or the like.
20. An apparatus according to claims 16, further including a base on which the bottom portion of said main container is supported and inside which electric heating means is installed.
15
21. An apparatus according to claim 16, further including power controlling means for varying the heating power generated by said heating means.
22. An apparatus according to claims 16, wherein said apparatus being made of microwave compatible material so that the fluid in said container can be heated by a microwave oven.
20